during annual peak migration of birds and appointment of a Bird Monitor to observe the change in behaviour of migratory birds during construction period.

Mangroves of Bhitarkanika

4693. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the proposed industrialization along the Brahmani river in Orissa is likely to spell doom for the rich mangrove vegetation in Bhitarkanika National Park;

(b) whether it is a fact that it is feared that if the water of the Brahmani river is diverted for industrial use, the mangrove forest straddling coastal Kendrapara and Bhadrak district might disappear by 2010; and

(c) if so, whether Government have assessed the situation so as to ensure the health of mangroves of Bhitarkanika?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) It is correct to state that a number of industries are located along the stretches of river Brahmani in Orissa. However, at present, there is no evidence of their adverse impact on mangroves in the Bhitarkanika National Park. A study published by MS Swaminathan Research foundation in July 2004 on Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary brings out that there is infact an increase in the mangrove area in 2004 as compared to the 1985 level.

(b) The mangroves need the right mixture of fresh and saline water in deltaic regions. Any significant decrease in fresh water flow to inter-tidal zone can affect both diversity and biomass of mangrove ecosystems. As such, maintaining the inflow of freshwater in appropriate quantum is essential. At present, the mangroves are protected through a range of regulatory measures like Coastal Regulation zone Notification, 1991; Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies under the EIA Notification, 1994 for specialized industries; monitoring compliance, with conditions imposed while according Environmental Clearance, with conditions imposed while according Environmental Clearance, by Regional Offices of the Ministry and State Pollution Control Boards; enforcement of emission and effluent standards by industries and other entities, and recourse to legal action against the defaulters.

(c) The Forest Survey of Idnia undertakes biennial assessment of forests including mangroves using Satellite Imagery, Bhitarkanika is one of the 35 identified mangrove sites for intensive conservation and management and is given assistance on 100% grant basis for various activities like Survey and Demarcation, Afforestation & Mangroves, Alternate and Supplementary Livelihoods, Protection Measures, and Education & Awareness.

Coastal ECO System

4694. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state.

(a) whether work relating to identificationmapping and digitization of the coastal ecosystem for the purpose of sustainable management has been taken up; and

(b) if so, the progress thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Work relating to mapping and digitization of eco-sensitive areas had been assigned to Institure for Ocean Management Anna University, Chennai. The Institute so far has identified, mapped and digitised the eco-sensitive areas in coastal areas of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Gujarat. With regard to the other coastal States and Union Territories, the work is in progress.

Violation of Environment Protection Act, 1986

4695. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted laying of Railway lines and drawing of high tension electric cables etc. to pass through forest areas and wildlife sanctuary as in case of the Kodagu district of Karnataka implying cutting of thousands of trees to create a 100 meter wide corridor for cables;

(b) whether such acts of omission and commission by Government tantamount to weakening and violation of Environment Protection Act 1986; and

(c) whether such acts open up thick virgin forest areas to human intrusion for the first time leading to illegal poaching, logging and other environmentally destructive activities?